

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over EP 592683 (EP '683), is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a process for tuft and filament binding in unfinished carpet using hot melts based on substantially amorphous poly- α -olefins and bonded materials produced by the process. More specifically, as recited in above-amended Claim 1, the invention is a process for tuft and filament binding to an unfinished carpet to provide a coated carpet, which comprises applying a coating composition which comprises from 50% to 100% by weight of one or more substantially amorphous poly- α -olefins as a melt to the backside of the unfinished carpet in a coating weight amount of from 20 to 1,500 g/m² to bind the tuft and filament to the unfinished carpet, wherein the melt viscosity of the coating composition at 190°C is from 200 mPas to 20,000 mPas, wherein the substantially amorphous poly- α -olefin comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of atactic poly-1-butene, propene-ethene copolymer, propene-1-butene copolymer, 1-butene-ethene copolymer and propene-1-butene-ethene terpolymer, and wherein the substantially amorphous poly- α -olefin has an enthalpy of fusion of at least 2 J/g and not more than 100 J/g.

A positive enthalpy of fusion means that the substantially amorphous poly- α -olefin has a minimum degree of crystallinity, as explained in the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4.

EP '683 discloses two amorphous olefin polymer compositions, (A) and (B), wherein composition (B) is used for pre-sealing a carpet cloth, after which composition (A) is applied in the melted state to obtain an integral laminate (column 2, lines 40-50). Both compositions (A) and (B) are disclosed as "not having crystallinity" (column 4, lines 57-58 and column 6, lines 45-46). Thus, EP '683 teaches away from some crystallinity in their amorphous olefin

polymer compositions, and thus it would not have been obvious to modify the amorphous polymers thereof by adding an amount of crystallinity.

While the above is sufficient to demonstrate patentability over EP '683, nevertheless, and in addition, Applicants have found that polymer compositions lacking any crystallinity are deficient in tuft bind. In addition, the filament binding which can be evaluated with the Lisson treading wheel test, as described in the specification examples, is inadequate. These properties are substantially improved with a certain degree of crystallinity.

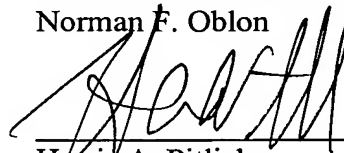
For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have described in the specification different viscosity ranges for the composition (page 2, last two lines) and the substantially amorphous poly- α -olefin (page 3, lines 15-17). Claim 5 accurately recites the melt viscosity range for the poly- α -olefin. Similarly, the softening point of 70°C for the poly- α -olefin, as recited in Claim 5, is described in the specification at page 3, line 16. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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